



National Commission on the Future of the Army

2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000
Arlington, VA 22202

SUBJECT: National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA), Operational Sub-Committee Engagement with Estonia Defense Attaché Minutes

Date: 13 August 2015

Time: 1400-1500 hrs

Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Format: round table discussion

Attendees:

HON Dr. Kathleen Hicks, Commissioner

Mr. Scott Sharp, NCFA Staff

MAJ Vinson Morris, Subcommittee Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Colonel Kajari Klettenberg, Defense Attaché, Embassy of Estonia

Documents Submitted to Commission: None

Meeting Summary

The Commission continues to meet with allied and partner nations to capture their perspectives as the United States balances the size and mix of the Army against available resources. The Commission is cognizant of United States' security interests and those of its partners and allies are inextricably linked. Engaging key allies to understand their perspectives in balancing national security risk in light of declining defense resources is an important element of the Commission's deliberative effort.

After introducing the DFO, who explained Federal Advisory Committee Act, Dr. Hicks explained the Commission's responsibilities and tasks. The following topics were then discussed:

1. The importance of allied and partner forces presence in Estonia. Currently, one rotational US Army infantry company provides an element of deterrence. Estonia desires the enduring deterrence and assurance of forward stationed US forces, but understands this unlikely. Estonia has the capacity to support a battalion sized rotational force and their associated equipment set.

SUBJECT: National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA), Operational Sub-Committee Engagement with Estonia Defense Attaché Minutes

2. U.S. force presence in the Baltic States provides a shield to help deter a more assertive Russia. Estonia views Russia as a long term security problem and U.S. force presence is crucial to deterrence. In their view, the best deterrence is NATO presence that includes U.S. forces.
3. U.S. capabilities of particular interest to Estonia: armored vehicles, specifically tanks, Air Defense Artillery, and logistics. Estonia and the Baltic Nations lack air and missile defense capabilities and those capabilities are not currently in their 10-year funding program. Geography will require more than a single battalion to provide sufficient defense across the Baltic States.
4. Estonia is committed to its defense and is one of the few NATO countries spending more than the required 2% of Gross Domestic Product. Additionally, Estonia has allocated funds to develop facilities to host US/NATO and partner forces as part of a Baltic Training Center. Estonia sees interoperability as a manageable problem.

COL Kajari Klettenberg is open to subsequent discussions to ensure the Commission has any information required. The meeting adjourned at 1500hrs.